

REMARKS

The reply dated November 12, 2004 was deemed not fully responsive for failing to alleviate the claim objections regarding the numbering of the claims. The present amendments are submitted by Applicants to conform the claim numbering to that proposed by the Examiner in the Office Action dated July 6, 2004.

In the interest of full disclosure, Applicants have previously pointed out that an Article 36 Amendment was filed in the International Patent Office on April 4, 2001, submitting claims 1 and 2 in lieu of claims 1-3. The Examiner responded that these amendments were not provided to the USPTO. Accordingly, Applicants presently submit a copy of the Article 36 Amendment filed in connection with the International Application. The amendment further contains the original claims 1 and 2 that were presented for examination. Nevertheless, the Applicants have amended the claims to further prosecution of the present application. Should the Examiner continue to object to the present claims, he is highly encouraged to contact the undersigned to establish a speedy resolution of this matter. The Examiner's cooperation is greatly appreciated.

If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the office is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No.: 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the Attorney Docket Number (0112740-334) on the account statement.) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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